

**REMARKS/ARGUMENT**

This paper is submitted responsive to the Official Action mailed December 15, 2004. Reconsideration of the application in light of the accompanying remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

In the aforesaid action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 5 and 7 contained allowable subject matter. By the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the language of dependent claim 2, which has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 5 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form. Each of these claims is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 3, 4 and 6 all depend from these allowable independent claims and are likewise believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 8 has also been amended to further recite that the bleed flow path for the second portion of reformate is upstream of the fuel cell. This subject matter is believed to coincide with the allowable subject matter of claim 2, and claim 8 is therefore also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 8 and are believed to be in condition for allowance based upon this dependency.

The art rejections set forth in the action are believed to be obviated by the claim amendments herein which are intended to accept the subject matter indicated patentable by the Examiner.

It is noted that the front page of the action sets forth an objection to the drawings. However, no explanation of this objection appears in the action. If there is any informality in connection with the drawings, it is believed to be due to the fact that the drawings were submitted as informal drawings. Upon allowance of the application, formal drawings will be submitted and are believed to be sufficient to resolve any

issues in connection with the drawings as filed.

An earnest and thorough effort has been made to respond to all issues raised in the Official Action and place this application in condition for allowance. If, upon consideration of this paper, the Examiner believes that issues remain which could be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss same.

It is believed that no fee is due in connection with this response. If, however, any fee or fee deficiency is due, please charge same to deposit account 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Margiott et al

By 

George A. Coury

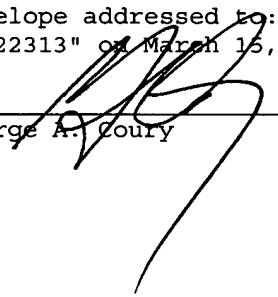
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Date: March 15, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on March 15, 2005.

  
George A. Coury